

## Snow Returns

Five days were suitable for fieldwork during the week ending April 24, according to the USDA-NASS-Michigan Statistical Office. This week brought a mixture of conditions across the State. Early in the week, it was warm with conditions good for tilling and planting. Some reporters mentioned record high temperatures for April. Towards the end of the week, rain and snow fell across Michigan and cold temperatures returned. Michigan was classified as abnormally dry according to NOAA’s U.S. Drought Monitor early in the week. Precipitation amounts ranged from 0.25 inches in the western Upper Peninsula to 1.51 inches in the southeastern Lower Peninsula. Average temperatures ranged from 2 degree above normal in the Upper Peninsula to 2 degrees below normal in the east central Lower Peninsula. A producer in the west central noted that “temperatures were not cold enough to cause damage, but a lack of bee activity in this wind and cold could develop major issues.” Another farmer commented “this is the earliest start on corn and soybean planting that I remember.”

Additional information on pest and crop management advice for current conditions can be found online in Michigan State University’s Crop Advisory Team (CAT) Alert newsletters at <http://ipm.msu.edu/aboutcat.htm>.

## Field Crops

Snow over the weekend halted most fieldwork. Prior to the snow, dry conditions persisted that allowed operators to make good progress on seedbed preparation. **Oat** and **barley** planting was about 30 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Although planting was ahead of normal for oats and barley, emergence was behind normal due to the dry conditions. Some operators were concerned that it was too early to plant **corn** while others decided to plant before the rains returned, since rains prevented timely planting last year. **Soybean** planting started last week. **Sugarbeet** planting was almost complete, on pace with last year but almost 40 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. **Alfalfa** stands appeared to have wintered well, with very little winter kill reported. **Winter wheat** stands improved this past week with two-thirds rated good to excellent and 25 percent rated fair.

Soil moisture for week ending 04/24/05

Stratum	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil	6	33	52	9
Subsoil	4	28	60	8

Crop condition for week ending 04/24/05

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Pasture	3	15	42	32	8
Winter Wheat	2	4	25	63	6

## Fruit

Warm dry conditions prevailed throughout the fruit growing regions of the State during the early part of the week. However, by Thursday cold arctic air began to settle in to the region. By Friday afternoon, storms were developing statewide. Much needed precipitation was accompanied by falling temperatures, which ultimately led to winter storm events throughout Michigan. Fruit development, which was well ahead of normal, left tree fruit vulnerable as development ranged from tightly clustered buds to full bloom, depending on species and geography. It is generally indicated that temperatures did not fall low enough to cause significant damage given developmental stages, however only time will tell. Michigan State University’s next Fruit CAT Alert will be issued April 26, 2005, and will contain information on the impact of the late season winter storm event.

## Vegetables

Vegetable growers started tillage and planted various crops throughout the State. Dry soil in the southwest has not allowed growers to perform various activities such as bed shaping, plastic laying and fumigation. Producers in the southeast received much needed rain to augment soil moisture levels. Early plantings of **peas** were two to three inches tall and **asparagus** harvest began in the southwest. In the west central, the asparagus crop has emerged, but most of what is through the ground will be mowed down with cover crop. Due to flooding in 2004, fields were greatly thinned out. Planting of **cabbage**, **peppers**, and some **sweet corn** began in the southeast. **Carrot** and **spinach** planting are well advanced but will probably need irrigation for germination and to prevent wind erosion.

Crop progress for week ending 04/24/05

Crop	This week	Last week	Last year	5-year average
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Barley, planted	50	25	24	22
Barley, emerged	10	NA	7	NA
Corn, planted	25	9	14	5
Oats, planted	70	53	62	42
Oats, emerged	12	NA	18	16
Potatoes, planted	15	10	13	NA
Soybeans, planted	6	0	NA	NA
Sugarbeets, planted	98	91	95	57

Michigan Weather Summary for Week Ending 04/24/05 <sup>1</sup>												
Station	Temperature			Cumulative growing degree days <sup>2</sup>			Precipitation					
	Maximum	Minimum	Departure from normal	2005	2004	Normal	This week	Last two weeks	Last four weeks	Since April 1	Normal Since April 1	Normal For month
Ironwood	81	27		139	48		0.04	0.08	0.79	0.71		
Marquette	79	26		110	33		0.65	0.65	1.79	1.75		
Stephenson	82	25		123	112		0.25	0.27	1.37	1.10		
<b>Western UP</b>	82	23	2	117	50	51	0.25	0.27	1.34	1.00	1.85	2.28
Cornell	81	27		102	64		0.21	0.28	0.85	0.41		
Sault St Marie	81	26		87	16		0.38	0.40	1.28	0.97		
<b>Eastern UP</b>	81	22	2	95	33	23	0.43	0.47	1.30	0.96	1.95	2.43
Beulah	80	30		183	85		0.91	0.91	1.54	0.91		
Lake City	80	28		151	88		0.87	0.87	1.48	0.88		
Old Mission	81	28		142	73		0.89	0.89	1.18	0.89		
Pellston	80	24		123	70		1.08	1.08	1.58	1.18		
<b>Northwest</b>	81	24	0	143	73	67	0.92	0.92	1.38	0.94	2.08	2.69
Alpena	83	25		90	69		1.24	1.24	1.34	1.32		
Houghton Lake	80	29		149	99		0.56	0.56	1.09	0.62		
Rogers City	82	27		125	68		1.01	1.01	1.29	1.07		
<b>Northeast</b>	83	20	0	129	87	61	1.00	1.00	1.25	1.06	2.00	2.52
Fremont	78	30		188	118		0.31	0.31	0.43	0.31		
Hart	78	30		177	101		0.49	0.49	0.90	0.53		
Muskegon	76	32		181	114		0.21	0.22	0.77	0.22		
<b>West Central</b>	86	30	1	180	105	84	0.28	0.28	0.65	0.29	2.37	3.16
Alma	83	30		177	137		0.47	0.47	0.54	0.47		
Big Rapids	83	30		175	126		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
<b>Central</b>	83	30	-1	176	130	94	0.36	0.36	0.42	0.36	2.25	3.07
Bad Axe	84	28		128	101		1.22	1.26	1.26	1.26		
Pigeon	84	30		107	91		0.47	0.47	0.49	0.49		
Saginaw	83	32		130	120		1.05	1.05	1.10	1.07		
Standish	84	31		130	120		1.05	1.05	1.08	1.06		
<b>East Central</b>	85	28	-2	120	110	91	0.98	0.98	1.00	0.99	1.84	2.55
Fennville	78	31		198	115		0.52	0.54	0.58	0.56		
Grand Rapids	81	31		191	158		0.67	0.67	0.90	0.68		
Holland	79	30		196	130		0.68	0.68	0.71	0.68		
South Bend, IN	81	31		217	175		0.90	0.92	1.15	0.96		
Watervliet	81	31		208	140		0.65	0.65	0.90	0.67		
<b>Southwest</b>	84	30	0	204	150	109	0.72	0.72	0.97	0.75	2.53	3.41
Belding	80	29		185	132		1.08	1.08	1.28	1.08		
Coldwater	81	30		182	139		0.60	0.60	0.66	0.61		
Lansing	81	31		196	139		0.99	0.99	1.14	1.00		
<b>South Central</b>	84	29	-1	190	152	109	0.62	0.62	0.72	0.63	2.39	3.19
Detroit	83	33		178	139		1.08	1.08	1.31	1.31		
Flint	83	31		177	147		1.14	1.14	1.15	1.14		
Romeo	83	29		163	133		1.16	1.16	1.44	1.43		
Tipton	81	30		191	143		0.93	0.93	1.01	1.00		
Toledo, OH	82	31		170	157		1.97	1.97	2.15	2.14		
<b>Southeast</b>	84	29	-1	176	143	99	1.51	1.51	1.68	1.67	2.46	3.21

<sup>1</sup> Issued by the Federal/State Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Michigan State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Agricultural Meteorologist, Department of Geography, and Crop Advisory Team ALERTS.

<sup>2</sup> Growing degree days (GDD) is the sum of daily mean temperatures minus 50 per day, 86 maximum and 50 minimum. The GDD is accumulative from April 1.

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